proposal but it has not yet been opt ned;

(c) whether Government propose to tato immediate action for •ning it ?

THE MINI SI E R OF STA1 E OF THE .MINISTRY OF COM-MUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): fa) and *(h)* The Superintend ;i of Posl Offices **h'-id** submiit" > a proposal <-'t' open ing of a posi ' tl villa ' ' a-triyara. However, on examination in the Office of the Regional Direc tor it was found that, the proposal did not satisfy the *prescribed* rorms and has therefore been dropped.

(c) In view of reply to (a) and (b) above the question does not arise.

C. DOT Technology in Tele-communication works

147. SHRI KAPIL VERMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to use C. DOT technology in the expansion of tele-communication works ;

(b) whether Government arc also signing agreements with French and American concerns for import of similar technology ; and

(c) if so, what are the reasons thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COM-MUNICATIONS (SHRI RAM NIWAS MIRDHA): (a) Yes, Sir. The indigenous technology for Electronic equipment is under development by C. DOT.

(b) There is at present no proposal with the Government to sign agreements with French or American concerns in regard to any new technologies. However, an agree ment was signed 1 l linn in July*2* in resp digital switching teel nolog; C. DOT was formed. As regatda technologies for electronic 1'ABX and 1 rural exc! ange matter is siill under consideration.

(c) Does not arise.

Safety measures in Hazardous Plants in States

148. SHRI KAPIL VERM A: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that he lias asked the Chief Ministers to take most stringent measures to curb the menace of continuing leak ages from chemical plants in their States and ensure that the *U* providing safety in the hazardous plants is accorded topmost p

(b) what are the bti jfts received by the Centre about the leakage position and the saiet; sures; and

(c) what measures taken in respect of plants ba hazardous processors or mi hazardous chemicals that migh aw closed down ?

THE MINISTER OF si IN THE DEPARTMENT OF CHEMICALS AND PETRO I MICALS (SHRI R. K. JA[CHANDRA SINGH) : a V• . Sir.

(b) Several State (. <\ 11 have set up Task Force/Comn for updating information pational and health hazardsi and implementation of safety in chemical and other using hazardous operation and processes including highly toxic stances.